



March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90  
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest for Price Cap Areas  
CP-TEL Network Services, Inc.

Dear Ms. Dortch,

CP-TEL Network Services, Inc. ("CP-TEL" or the "Company"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of CP-TEL Holdings, Inc. ("CHI"), hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved areas with additional Connect America Funding.<sup>1</sup>

### **Company History and Description**

CHI is the parent company of Campti-Pleasant Hill Telephone Co., Inc. ("Campti") and CP-TEL. CP-TEL is a progressive independent telecommunication, internet, long distance, and video provider with state-of-the-art facilities throughout our service territory in rural North Central Louisiana. Today, CHI, CP-TEL and Campti jointly operate in a total of seven (7) rural markets, providing service to over 7,300 voice, video and data connections, including over 4,500 telephone access lines, over 2,100 high speed internet and almost 700 digital television customers.

CP-TEL has deployed leading edge technology which provides the most advanced services to its customers. The Company offers high speed internet connections in select areas of up to 110Mbps, more than 257 digital video channels, 49 high definition channels, video on demand, and DVR capability. Furthermore, the Company has pushed fiber deep into its network to support high-speed internet to 100% of our customers and 30% have access to IPTV.

<sup>1</sup> See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

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CP-TEL enjoys a sterling reputation in the area as a leading corporate citizen. CP-TEL is an active member in the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce and we donate both time and money to many worthy area causes. Our well-recognized commitment to high levels of service quality and industry leadership has created a loyal customer base.

It is due to our successful history of providing advanced telecommunications to rural customers that we believe we are uniquely qualified to offer high-speed broadband to additional unserved areas near our existing operations.

### Proposed Service Areas

ST	Parish Name	Tract ID	Census Tract Towns	Eligible High Cost Locations	Extremely High Cost Locations	Annual Support
LA	Natchitoches	22069000900	Natchez, Cloutierville	1177	175	\$ 413,318
LA	Natchitoches	22069000800	Provencal	756	70	\$ 269,868
LA	Natchitoches	22069000300	Marthaville, Bellmont	742	33	\$ 263,354
LA	Natchitoches	22069000100	Goldonna	578	52	\$ 207,378
LA	Red River	22081960300	Coushatta	110	4	\$ 44,628
LA	DeSoto	22031950100	Stonewall	376	20	\$ 131,844
LA	DeSoto	22031950200	Logansport	872	39	\$ 363,065

### Proposed Technology, Services and Funding

CP-TEL is proposing to serve these rural unserved areas with fiber optics and state-of-the-art electronics and equipment. We are confident that we can bring the same level of advanced services to these areas as have been enjoyed by our current customers. CP-TEL currently offers fiber based, high-speed Internet services at speeds ranging from 20Mbps/5Mbps to 110Mbps/20Mbps (in select areas). Since these new service areas will be served with the most current fiber optic and telecommunications technology, CP-TEL will be able to offer these customers our highest speeds available at the same rates enjoyed by our current customers (e.g., 20Mbps/5Mbps a la carte pricing is currently \$49.95 per month). We will also be able to provide these customers with advanced voice and video (broadcast and streaming) services in addition to high-speed Internet.

Due to the fact that CP-TEL will be able to integrate these new service areas into our existing operations, CP-TEL does not anticipate the need for ongoing support. Accordingly, we are

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willing to serve these areas with one-time funding support. However, at this time, since the unserved high-cost census blocks within the Census Tracts have yet to be identified, CP-TEL is unable to definitively estimate the construction costs and amount of funding needed. We have completed some initial internal estimates, which will be further refined and identified if and when a formal proposal is submitted.

### **Existing Providers**

AT&T is the traditional incumbent telecommunications provider in all of these proposed areas. Red River Cable provides limited service in Red River Parish, including portions of Coushatta. CP-TEL is unaware of any other providers in any of these areas.

### **Anchor Institutions**

There are schools located in all but one of these proposed areas, as well as several libraries, health care facilities, community centers, post offices, and state, parish and local governmental institutions.

### **State and/or Local or Tribal Governmental Participation in and/or Support for the Project**

CP-TEL has positive relations with the communities we serve. We have also been approached by many of the above proposed communities to extend our service into their communities. Therefore, we are confident of receiving support regarding access to rights of way, pole attachments (including with the local electric utility providers) and other necessary support facilities.

### **Project Timeline and Scalability**

CP-TEL has its own construction assets and access to fiber backbone facilities in and around these proposed communities. Preliminary engineering is already underway and we estimate that construction could begin within one month of the receipt of all necessary approvals required for such funding. Effectively, we believe that we could complete these projects within 24 months, with some communities coming online within six (6) months of project commencement. Once the terms of any final award are known and accepted by CP-TEL and the identification of available funding for which communities is known, we would logically begin construction with some of the smaller projects located continuous with or near existing operations, phasing out to the more distant projects as we complete all phases of the project.

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**Additional Information**

For additional information regarding this project or any other matter concerning this Expression of Interest letter, please contact:

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CP-TEL appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding Expression of Interest and welcomes the opportunity to provide any necessary information or answer any questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Fox  
President & Chief Executive Officer

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